

2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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of Transportation**

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ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION SAFETY, INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

MISSION

To provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhances quality of life, promotes economic prosperity and demonstrates respect for our environment.

IDOT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Safety, Integrity, Responsiveness, Quality and Innovation

IDOT PRIORITIES

SAFETY – Improved safety on roads and bridges is our top priority. IDOT is leading a coalition of state agencies in developing and implementing a Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan unprecedented in Illinois history. Through this plan and the public-private partnerships it creates, IDOT is coordinating an approach to improved highway and a greater overall focus on traffic safety designed to lower the incidence of highway fatalities dramatically over the next few years.

MOBILITY – Dependable mobility on Illinois roads and bridges contributes to improved quality of life and economic prosperity across the state. IDOT's studied approach to roadway and bridge maintenance and repair and its ongoing commitment to project development based on demonstrated need, means more highway dollars go where they are needed most to keep traffic flowing steadily. This highway improvement philosophy now has been extended to rail projects in order to hold freight congestion to a minimum, which means more timely deliveries, lower costs, and less time and fuel consumed while traveling from place to place.

PRESERVATION – Preservation of the state's multi-modal transportation system depends on today's ability to plan projects over the long term. IDOT aggressively pursues federal funding earmarks and carefully sets its construction strategies to give Illinoisans the quality and reliability they demand throughout the state. Today, IDOT is emphasizing the repair or reconstruction of hundreds of aging bridges to keep traffic flowing smoothly. Utilizing our reorganized and streamlined Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation, IDOT emphasizes better coordination of transportation alternatives from safe and convenient roads and bridges to passenger rail services, regional airports, and top-notch public transportation options.

EFFICIENCY – Streamlined project delivery to ensure process efficiency and lower public costs is more than a catch phrase. At IDOT, it's a way of life as we have reduced staff by more than 14 percent in the past three years and have reorganized and streamlined many of our internal offices and processes to adapt to and make the most of our valuable human resources.

OUTREACH – Improved internal and external communications are helping IDOT understand and meet the needs of its customers, the traveling public. Through internal reorganization and creation of the Office of External Affairs along with programs like Context Sensitive Solutions, our improved Disadvantaged Business Enterprise outreach, our annual motorist survey, and numerous public meetings held across Illinois each year, IDOT has a good handle on the needs and expectations of the traveling public. That helps us improve the way we plan and deliver on those needs for all of Illinois.

Under the leadership of Governor Rod R. Blagojevich, the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2004 and 2005 has moved quickly to solidify a variety of organizational improvements and has held to the priority of more effective and efficient delivery of programs and services in every aspect of IDOT's operation.

The department's major accomplishments in recent months are highlighted and summarized in this Annual Report for 2004-2005. Some of these accomplishments have saved taxpayers' money, employees' time or other state resources. Some initiatives have saved money and lives of Illinoisans through improved safety programs. Many initiatives represent significant early steps in broader strategies to improve further in the years ahead.

IDOT's full delivery of the FY 2004 and FY 2005 Highway Programs, despite extensive staff reductions since 2002, represents solid achievement among IDOT's many efforts to lead the way toward improved efficiency and effectiveness in Illinois government. These gains represent the basis on which we will build our efforts in 2006 to further improve the ways in which we deliver transportation services from day to day.

IDOT took significant steps in 2004 and 2005 to ensure that project selection is fair and balanced throughout Illinois and that projects are programmed based on safety considerations, economic development goals, traffic congestion issues, and other demonstrated needs rather than political clout. IDOT's outreach to community organizations and regional leaders throughout Illinois has encouraged additional local input into decisions on transportation improvements through our Context Sensitive Solutions initiative. The department has taken effective steps to include more contractors in statewide bidding processes and especially to help more small and disadvantaged contractors qualify for and be more competitive for state contracts. Greater competition for state contracts spurs job growth and produces much greater return across Illinois on taxpayers' transportation investments.

IDOT has put an even greater emphasis on traffic safety through the creation of the Bureau of Traffic Safety Engineering, designed to more quickly and accurately identify and correct safety issues on Illinois highways.

In addition, the 2003 passage and subsequent state promotion of a primary safety belt law in Illinois directly contributed to a reduction in traffic deaths totaling more than 100 motorists in Illinois during 2004. The continuing primary seat belt requirement coupled with IDOT's new commitment to an improved Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan in Illinois are expected to save dozens of lives each year as agencies across Illinois work more closely to coordinate their activities and promote a safer transportation environment for Illinoisans. These safety steps also will help Illinois net tens of millions of dollars in additional federal funds annually for continuing traffic safety improvements and awareness efforts, including our successful work zone safety campaigns.

Internal reorganization has led to streamlined business services, purchasing oversight, and information technology processes. IDOT also has combined Rail with Public Transportation to create a new Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation which is taking the lead on more effective public-private, multi-agency coordination to plan and implement comprehensive improvements in transportation options for Illinois citizens.

Illinois and IDOT face significant revenue challenges in the months and years ahead – far more transportation needs exist than available dollars to meet those needs. The immediate future of the state's road and bridge construction program depend on adequate federal funding for Illinois. IDOT continues to fight for Illinois' fair share of federal funding in legislation now under consideration by Congress.

As we approach fiscal year 2006, our top priority at IDOT is to build on the good work we have begun and provide Illinois with even stronger leadership and results on transportation. We have not wavered in our vision to be the premier state department of transportation in the nation. The people of Illinois deserve nothing short of excellence.



Timothy W. Martin
Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation

HIGHLIGHTS

FISCAL YEARS 2004 AND 2005

The Illinois Department of Transportation, led by Governor Blagojevich and Secretary Martin, is a leaner organization than ever before, operating with a significantly reduced workforce yet continuing to deliver on program budgets at or near record levels for the state of Illinois.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Promises Kept and Surpassed – IDOT exceeded the promises made in the annual road and bridge improvement program for 2004, delivering more than 1,200 miles of pavement repairs and nearly 250 bridge repairs across the state. Our customers in the motoring public say they like what they see. Our annual surveys of Illinois motorists consistently indicate that more than 60 percent of Illinois drivers think IDOT is doing a good or excellent job overall. In addition, more than 70 percent of drivers say IDOT workers' conduct on the job is good or excellent, and some 80 percent or four out of every five drivers say IDOT is doing a good or excellent job on snow and ice control. Performance excellence is IDOT's overriding priority.

Nationally Recognized Highway Projects – IDOT, for the second straight year, has seen two of its major road reconstruction projects recognized in Roads & Bridges magazine and ranked among the top ten highway projects in the nation. The projects cited for this year were the reconstructions of the Dan Ryan and Kingery expressways in the south part of Chicago.

Making Air Travel Easier – Efforts to expand airport options for Chicago-area travelers continue. More than 1,700 acres of land has been purchased to date for the South Suburban Airport in Will County, amounting to more than one-third of the acreage required for the inaugural airport. IDOT continues to pursue the purchase of the land needed to construct the facility. IDOT has secured an additional \$2.5 million in federal funding to continue the environmental and master planning studies for this important airport.

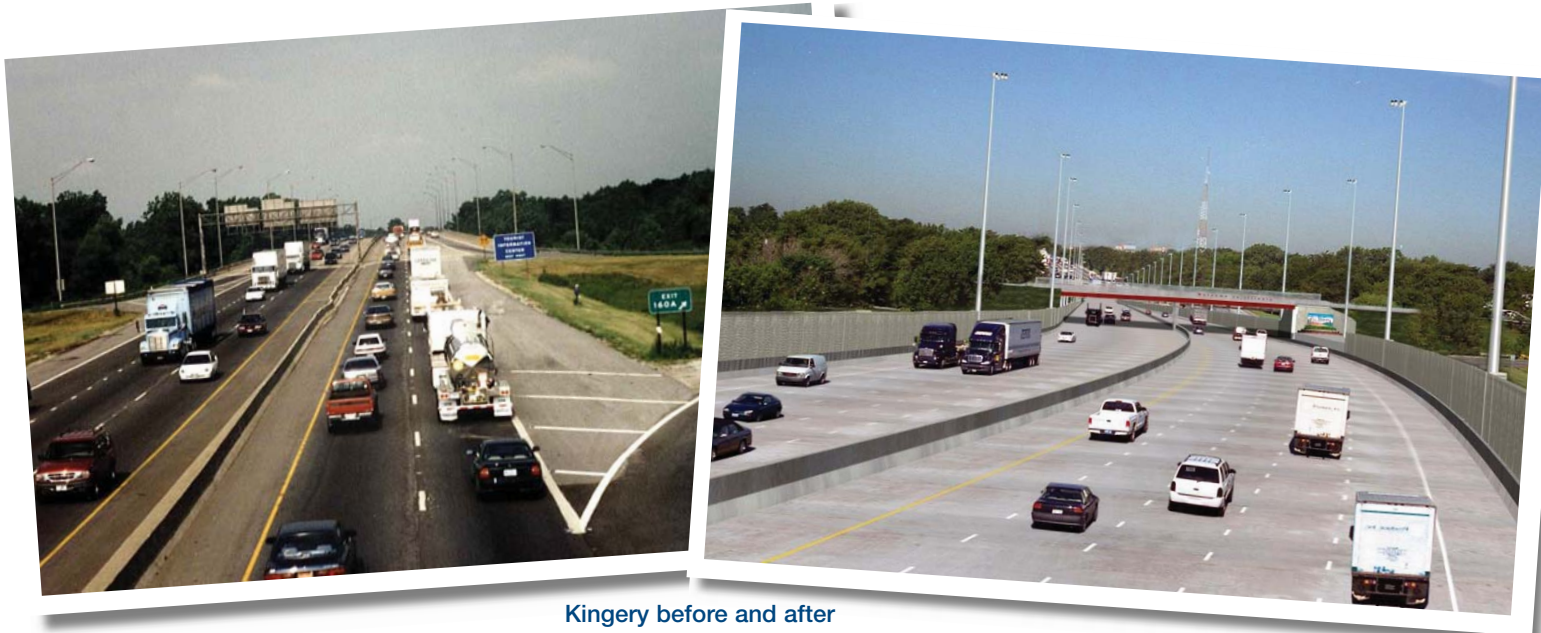
Opening Up Travel Options – A new contract with Amtrak keeps three downstate Illinois passenger rail corridors open and running. Illinoisans must like that idea – ridership on these lines increased by nearly 14 percent in 2004.

Getting You There Even Faster – Work is nearing completion on more than \$50 million in rail-road track upgrades that will lead to higher speed passenger train service between Chicago and Springfield and faster travel times for folks traveling by train from St. Louis to Chicago.



Dan Ryan before and after





Kingery before and after

Improving Public Transit Alternatives – IDOT’s continuing commitment to improved public transportation service means that more people can use transit options to get to and from work conveniently, which decreases highway traffic and congestion as it improves air quality. Through improvements to the CTA Brown Line in Chicago, station improvements for travelers on Metra commuter trains serving the Chicago area, additional PACE bus options for suburban area commuters, and additional transit options downstate, public transportation has never been more available to more people than it is today across Illinois.

Increasing public transit – reducing congestion – IDOT supported more than \$560 million in capital improvements and operating funds to Illinois’ public transportation systems, including:

- \$41 million for purchase of about 150 rapid transit cars to replace outdated cars in the CTA system. These rapid transit cars will incur fewer breakdowns and less lengthy or frequent repairs as they improve safety, energy savings, and ride quality on CTA routes.
- \$88 million to match or leverage more than \$350 million in federal funds to modernize, improve service, increase efficiency, and expand transit infrastructure throughout Illinois.
- Technical assistance to evaluate potential for transit system and service expansions for the Kankakee and Rockford areas.

Speeding the Flow of Rail Freight through Chicago – CREATE means fewer freight snags on railroads and highways and fewer traffic tie-ups as a result. CREATE is a \$1.5-billion, public-private partnership involving IDOT, the city of Chicago, private-sector railroads and several local agencies. This innovative collaboration is designed to improve rail freight flow through the Chicago area by reducing rail freight congestions and the motorist traffic congestion that can often result. Freer flowing traffic means fewer shipping delays and less wear and tear on local roads and motorists’ nerves.

Working to Relieve Traffic Congestion – IDOT continues to operate the most sophisticated system in the United States to monitor and manage traffic, respond quickly and safely to incidents, provide quality and timely information to our customers and improve the safety of work zones. Technology plays an important role in providing information needed to reduce traffic congestion. Electronic detection equipment on more than 160 miles of Chicago expressways help IDOT technicians monitor traffic volumes, speeds and congestion levels. IDOT also uses ramp meters based on traffic conditions to improve traffic flow, dynamic message signs and highway advisory radio to inform motorists of conditions, closed circuit television to be able to quickly identify and respond to incidents, and highway service patrols to assist motorists and return the roadway to full capacity and reduce delays.

IMPROVED BUSINESS PRACTICES

Reducing Staff, Increasing Efficiencies – IDOT has reduced its overall headcount by more than 1,000 since the end of 2002 – a 14 percent reduction in personnel – without compromising its ability to accomplish its mission of building, maintaining and operating Illinois' infrastructure. The savings from reduced salaries and benefits will exceed \$55 million per year. However, despite this dramatic streamlining, IDOT accomplished 103 percent of its planned highway program level in 2004.

Changing IDOT to Make Best Use of Existing Resources – IDOT has reorganized the way it approaches highway maintenance with a regional approach that ensures greater accountability throughout the state. IDOT has emphasized a new focus on regional management of transportation program delivery to ensure that the scope, schedule and budget of projects are not adversely affected by unnecessary or last-minute changes and to better ensure that IDOT can continue to deliver on its promises in the annual highway program. Meanwhile, IDOT's administrative structure has become more streamlined with the consolidation and elimination of unnecessary organizational units and the reallocation of existing staff to today's administrative priorities. By streamlining processes, and retraining and reorganizing staff, IDOT has vastly improved its approach to staff training, procurement of supplies and services, and communications. That means fewer dollars spent on administration and more dollars available for transportation improvements.

Process Improvements to an International Standard – IDOT's Division of Highways is leading the way to greater accountability and customer satisfaction through compliance with internationally recognized quality standards for business processes. This means improved accountability, more effective coordination of services, better communications, greater attention to customer needs, and other sound business management goals. IDOT has targeted key processes in every aspect of its Division of Highways for improvement under process management guidelines outlined by the International Organization of Standards (ISO) designed to improve staff efficiency, reduce the time required for planning and design phases of construction projects, and reduce overall project costs.

SAFETY

Fewer Deaths in 2004 on Illinois Streets and Roads – With the leadership of the Governor, IDOT and Illinois motorists in 2004 saw tangible benefits from the 2003 enactment of the Primary Seatbelt Law and various enhanced driver-safety awareness campaigns throughout Illinois. As a result, safety belt usage in Illinois jumped to 83 percent by June 2004, and traffic fatalities in 2004 decreased by nearly 9 percent compared to the previous year. That means 100 fewer people died on Illinois streets and roads in 2004 than in 2003, a tribute to the importance of safety belt usage and other driver safety awareness campaigns spearheaded by IDOT.

A New Emphasis on Comprehensive Safety Planning – Working with the Federal Highways Administration and numerous state and local agencies in Illinois, IDOT is taking the lead on developing a Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan designed to better coordinate and integrate safety improvements across the state. The Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan goes beyond traditional traffic safety efforts involving work zones and pavements and looks at ways in which to better coordinate the variety of transportation-related safety work that goes on in state and local agencies throughout Illinois to reduce duplication of efforts and to increase cooperation and emphasis on statewide strategies. The idea is to make best use of the federal, state and local resources and services available to raise awareness to various safety threats and educate drivers, while finding more effective ways of making roads and bridges safer for motorists.



**KEEP US ALIVE
DRIVE 45**